

THE Bloomfield Record.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

S. MORRIS HULIN, Editor and Proprietor.

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When the notes of this government are to be paid as good as gold this bank will give you business.—JOHN P. ST. JOHN, Pres. Mechanics National Bank N. Y.

The Collection of Taxes.

The Township Committee held a special meeting on Monday evening last called for the purpose of resuscitating action taken at the previous regular meeting, when it was decided to publish, immediately, the list of delinquent taxpayers for the year 1894, where the Township had not yet, for previous taxes, secured a bid on the property.

The reason given for thus publishing the list was that the township "needs money, and the advertisement would have the desired effect," that is, of inducing many of the delinquents to pay up. The motion to advertise, as amended by Mr. Gilbert, and passed, was that all unpaid taxes of 1894, including all real estate, whether a man had been secured or not, and personal and poll taxes, be advertised, Mr. Gilbert claiming it was unjust to those who were only in arrears for two years to be advertised when parties who were in arrears for the same year and for many years before were not annoyed or disgraced by such action. He said it was unfair to those who were comparatively prompt and showed partiality to those who allowed their taxes to run for ten, fifteen or twenty years.

As simply the publication last week of this intention by the Committee has already had the good effect of "dunning" delinquent taxpayers and bringing money into the Treasury, it is a matter of some surprise that suddenly a special meeting was called at which the Committee took a different view of the matter, and passed a resolution to defer the advertising of these unpaid taxes.

An impression prevails that the Committee is unwilling to make the effort to collect these taxes and so replenish the Treasury, because of political opposition that is likely to be developed, jeopardizing the plans now being formulated to keep the township in control of those now running it. The statement is freely made that among the delinquent taxpayers are men who are drawing pay as officials, and others who have political influence, who would either be unwillingly compelled to pay their taxes or be exposed as delinquent in the advertisement, which would not be creditable to the administration.

The only criticism the Record has to make in regard to this action of the Committee is this: Whether there is "politics in it," as some say, or not, our Committee-men are not making the same business-like effort to secure money due the Township for taxes that they would make, and do make, in making collections for themselves.

In private business a merchant does not usually let his accounts run, at the pleasure of the debtor, or until the debtor picks up and moves out of town. The successful merchant goes for that debtor and makes him pay up. If he knows that his debtor is honest and means to pay he may give him time. But in conducting a banking business or an insurance business there is no such leniency as that; and in conducting township business, relating to taxes, there should be absolutely no favoritism shown, no chance taken of losing a dollar of taxes justly assessed, nor in delaying the collection a day beyond the time that the money may be secured.

The wisdom and justice of this is apparent. The only taxpayer who is entitled to any sort of favor or credit is the one who pays his taxes promptly as a duty, and in the exercise of patriotic citizenship. It is a gross injustice to such taxpayers to oblige them to part with the delinquent's tax in addition to their own.

Aldermanic Self-Recusation.

With a magnificence that is rare in the history of charters, the almighty dollar, the Township Committee have performed an act that must fairly entitle each of them to the esteem of the public. They have decided, in view of the large expenses incurred in the litigation against Glen Ridge Borough, to serve the Township as Committee-men for the balance of the year without remuneration. They receive two dollars apiece for each meeting. The year closes with the month of March.

Passaic River Pollution.

There will be an inquiry into the cause of the Passaic river pollution and a remedy will be discovered if it is possible for three laymen to find it. The bill that was passed at Trenton on Tuesday, bearing the name of Senator Williams, of Passaic, is one that is understood to meet the approval of the executive. The selection of the three commissioners rests with the Governor. This has been one of the most important bills before the Legislature. It is also one of the historical bills of this Legislature, for it involves great interest and has brought up a controversy that is far-reaching in its political effect. There are some things about it that sooner or later will involve the leaders of the two parties in an argument that may be many-voiced as was the railroad taxation of twelve years ago. It is said that there will be one commissioner from Hudson one from Passaic and one from Essex County. There are several names mentioned from the latter County. One is Henry M. Dovenens, who is urged by several politicians, but the Governor favors Anna Dovens, thinking that she can more easily insure an insurance producer and ex-chancellor. In all probability he will be appointed.

Piling Up the Navies.

The various civilized nations of the world continue adding new ships to their navies as though they expected to really use them, which is not likely. Improvements and changes are made so rapidly that a vessel of most approved pattern becomes old-fashioned in five years' time.

England's navy is certainly six times as powerful as that of the United States.

It has added to its three first class battleships, two smaller vessels. She has now under construction 10 first class battleships and 21 cruisers. Eng-

land's navy could undoubtedly knock out those of any other two nations put together, even of France and Russia.

France has the second most powerful navy after Great Britain, while Russia comes third, yet the two together are not equal to England. But Russia and France are working with great vigor and hustle to increase their water fighting power. They are only less active than England. The United States stands fourth. His funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at the family residence of Town Committee-man Frank Foster.

François, the eighth son of the second in 1890, China was knocked down by the warship Japan into the ninth tenth place. She has literally nothing left in the way of a navy.

The United States is only a little naval power, being the fifth. Up to 1890 she was the sixth, but since then she has passed Germany. What we are doing in the way of additions, compared to the nations of the old world, may be judged from the fact that we have now under construction only five battleships, one cruiser and a number of smaller frigates and torpedo boats.

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